

Deputy Assistant Director, OSI

4 November 1949

A/C, Chemistry Division, OSI

Meeting Between OSI and OO re Value of Periodical Abstracts vs.
Chemical Abstracts for Basic Chemical Intelligence.

Those present: Mr. G. Carey
Mr. Bagnall

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1. This meeting was concerned with the statements and this office's paper, entitled: "Abstracting Services as an Intelligence Tool for Assessing Soviet Chemical Research," to the effect that the 9 - 17 months interval between the publication of articles on Russian chemical research and the time that abstracts of such articles appear in Chemical Abstracts was not significant for basic intelligence purposes.

2. Mr. Bagnall pointed out that in the release of this paper the Service Agencies might get the impression that, inasmuch as FDD was expanding considerable effort to get abstracts of the type of material covered by Chemical Abstracts into the hands of intelligence personnel in a shorter period, the impression might be created that there was a difference of opinion within CIA as to the intelligence significance of this work.

3. Our people replied that, first of all the statements in the above paper were definitely restricted to basic chemical intelligence, which deals principally with theoretical research. Since the time before such research can be applied to industrial processes for military purposes may vary between a period of a few years up to a period of 10 years or more, the interval of a few months in getting such abstracts into circulation has relatively little significance. A second point was that the statement applies only to the chemical research field where the coverage rendered Chemical Abstracts is recognized to be of a very high quality. In other fields the same conclusion could not be drawn.


4. In view of this, it was the consensus of the meeting that FDD could profitably give up the abstracting of journals which they have good reason to believe will be covered by Chemical Abstracts and confine their coverages in abstracting these journals to (1) those areas that have been defined as sensitive by guide type requirements, and (2) to when information is carried concerning the institutional sources of the original Russian papers. This latter information is not covered by Chemical Abstracts and is extremely important to the intelligence operations of this office.


5. It was further decided that as an aid to FDD in determining whether journals are covered by Chemical Abstracts or other efficient commercial abstracting service, the divisions of this office will supply FDD with a list of journals that are known to be published and that are not being covered adequately by commercial abstracting services.

6. After such lists have been prepared and pending further considerations between us and them as to how to present the subject of curtailed activities on their part as to Periodical Abstracts (possibly even ceasing to publish Periodical Abstracts), a joint meeting is to be held with the IAC Agencies and any other customers of FDD concerned, to discuss what effect such action will have upon their operations and to develop exactly what activities FDD should engage in to satisfy their needs.

Information Copy to:

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Mr. J. Bagnall, through OO.
Attn: Mr. G. Carey

00✓ 1 carbon forwarded to OO for transmittal
to Mr. Bagnall from  (OSI).
2 carbons sent to FDD on 8 Nov 49 for info
and file.

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